

CONFIDENTIAL

13 April 1955

25X1

[redacted]
London Bureau, FBIS
c/o American Embassy
#5, Grosvenor Square
London W.1, England

Dear Alan:

Subject: EBC-FBIS Standardization
Meeting 1 March 1955

25X1

Shortly after your departure [redacted] forwarded a copy of the record of the Fourth meeting of the Joint EBC-FBIS Standardization Committee held on 1 March 1955.

The record showed that some progress has been made but on many points a serious stalemate exists. I asked [redacted], therefore, to make some comments for forwarding to you in London since I believe that discussion between you and Campbell may be the only way to reach agreement. These comments are attached. Since I assume that Roland will have a copy of the record in his files, I am not enclosing one herewith.

25X1

Sincerely,

25X1

[redacted]
Attachment (1)

Memo re EBC-FBIS Standardization
Committee Meeting 1 March 1955.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBID

DATE: 13 April 1955

FROM : Chief, Radio Propaganda Branch

SUBJECT: Record of BBC-FBIS Standardization Committee Meeting 1 March 1955

1. Reference paragraph I B 1: RPB has repeatedly found that BBC monitors have considered important materials not worth recording (for example a signed anti-religion article of 1 September 1954) or important recordings not worth retaining (for example Bulganin's 1954 Armed Forces Day speech, only summarized in PRAVDA). Types of Communist coverage which might not always be recorded should include only music.

2. Reference paragraph II B and C: Recommend we insist that BBC work toward the practice of summarizing all programs monitored. If there was once a time when the monitoring teams were uniformly sophisticated and alert enough to be entrusted with final selection, they are no longer so, at least for RPB purposes.

3. Reference Appendix A, paragraphs 1, 2, 3: Recommend, since FBIS requirements are not stated as inviolable minima but as targets, that we insist on them.

4. Reference Appendix A, paragraphs 4, 5, 6: It should be made clear that BBC's inability to make firm commitments on these requirements is due to a hopefully temporary budget deficiency. If that deficiency should be prolonged, FBIS would have to make other arrangements to supply its requirements. Reference proposed rephrasing of paragraph 5, suggest "but may be waived by mutual agreement."

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